No Objection to Declassification in Full 2010/09/30 : LOC-HAK-490-3-78-9

'71 JUN 1 PM 8:00

1971 JUN 1 23 55

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

T O P S E C R E T Ø122327 JUNE 71 SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY
VIA CAS CHANNELS

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER
TO : AMBASSADOR BUNKER
CITE: WHS1051

WE HAVE JUST COMPLETED EXTENSIVE ANALYSIS OF THE PROSPECTS FOR OUR TWO-YEAR DRAFT EXTENSION LEGISLATION ON THE HILL. ALL SIGN POSTS POINT TOWARD A MOST CRUCIAL VOTE SOMETIME IN JUNE WHICH COULD HAVE AN OVERRIDING IMPACT ON OUR ABILITY TO MAINTAIN TROOP LEVELS WORLDWIDE AND ESPECIALLY IN VIETNAM. OUR BEST ESTIMATES SUGGEST THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A MEETING WITH THIEU IN JUNE COULD WELL TRIGGER A FILIBUSTER WHICH MIGHT RESULT IN A CONGRESSIONAL DEADLOCK OR WORSE ON THE DRAFT ISSUE.

FOR THIS REASON, AND IN THE FULL RECOGNITION OF THE DIFFICULTIES THIS WILL POSE AT YOUR END, ALL HERE FEEL STRONGLY THAT WE MUST PREVENT BOTH AN ANNOUNCEMENT AND A MEETING WITH THIEU BEFORE THE END OF JUNE. THE PRESIDENT HAS REGRETFULLY CONCLUDED THAT ESTABLISHING YET ANOTHER POSSIBLE MEETING DATE WOULD BEST POSTURE US THROUGH THE CRUCIAL VOTE ON THE DRAFT. HE WISHES TO POSTPONE THE MIDWAY MEETING UNTIL JULY 5 OR 6, WITH A STRONG PREFERENCE FOR JULY 6.

WE ARE VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE DIFFICULTIES ANOTHER CHANGE WILL CAUSE YOU AND REGRET VERY MUCH HAVING TO ASK YOU TO AGAIN APPROACH THIEU TO CHANGE THE DATE. ON BALANCE, HOWEVER, IT WILL SERVE HIS AND OUR BEST INTERESTS. THE NEW DATE SHOULD BE CLOSELY HELD UNTIL ON OR AROUND JUNE 30.

WARM PERSONAL REGARDS.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

No Objection to Declassification in Full 2010/09/30 : LOC-HAK-490-3-78-9